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JACK ANDERSON

Castro Influence Widely Feared In Latin Nations

Cuban President Fidel Castro, enraged over the U.S. invasion of Grenada, has ordered terrorists under his discipline to "kill Americans." He directs an underground revolutionary network that is allied with terrorist groups throughout Latin America.

The ominous words "kill Americans" were used in a top-secret warning that was flashed last Saturday to U.S. embassies from Mexico to Chile.

An earlier, precautionary alert was sent out the morning of the Grenada invasion, warning that retribution against Americans was possible. But the second message was more explicit and urgent.

My intelligence sources say that Castro's secret instructions were intercepted by U.S. monitoring stations. Though there can be no question that he ordered terrorist attacks on Americans, some sources do question how effectively the campaign will be implemented.

U.S. embassies and consulates, meanwhile, are taking no chances. They have tightened security and have strengthened their guard forces.

But businesses and individuals also may be in danger, my sources say.

There is special concern about Americans in Mexico City. CIA sources told my associate Dale Van Atta that terrorists from all over the world gathered in Mexico City on Oct. 21 for an underground convention. Castro, of course, sent his delegates.

In this subterranean world, Cuba is regarded as the principal proxy for Soviet subversion, terrorism and revolution. The Cubans get their financing, of course, from the Kremlin. Then they, in turn, subsidize and supply terrorist groups up and down the Western Hemisphere, such as the radical M-19 group in Colombia.

Castro has also brought a new unity and cohesion to the terrorist movement. He has established liaison between terrorist groups and has coordinated their activities. Under Cuban pressure, for example, four small Honduran bands have been united.

Castro's agents have infiltrated most countries in this hemisphere, including the United States. A conservative count of his agents in Miami alone exceeds 200, intelligence sources say.

The Cuban leader reacted to the U.S. assault on Grenada as if it were a Cuban province. He sent a dramatic order to the Cubans on Grenada to resist to the death. This hardly squares with the communist line

that the Cubans were merely construction workers who had been invited to Grenada to help its peaceful development. Visiting laborers do not normally fight to the death for their host country.